UPLAND GAME BIRDS & FALCONRY

1996-1997 HUNTING REGULATIONS
STATE OF MONTANA

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Licenses — The following licenses are available at all Fish, Wildlife and Parks offices and most license agents throughout the state. The license is valid March 1 through February of the following year.

	Res.	Nonres.
Conservation (required prerequisite*)	$4.00	$ 5.00
Upland Game Bird (required prerequisite for turkey*)	$6.00	$55.00
Fall Season Turkey	$5.00	$13.00
MT Migratory Game Bird Stamp	$5.00	$ 5.00

*The resident Sportsman's License and the nonresident Big Game Combination License and the nonresident Deer Combination License, include both a conservation and upland game bird license.

Montana residents 12-14 years of age, 62 and older or holders of a Disabled Resident Conservation License need only a conservation license to hunt all upland game birds, except turkey. Persons under 12 years of age may not hunt upland game birds.

A valid "Resident of Flathead Reservation Use Permit" with a valid Flathead reservation bird stamp will be honored by the state wherever hunting for upland or migratory birds is lawful in Montana.

Avoid Violations of the Law — It is illegal to shoot any game bird on, from or across any public highway, or the shoulder, berm, or borrow-pit, or right-of-way of any public highway, and/or motor driven conveyance.

Checking Stations — All hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting and fishing areas, even if they have no game or fish to be checked.

Hunter Education — Both resident and nonresident youths 12-17 years of age must provide a Certificate of Competency in the safe handling of firearms before they may purchase a hunting license. **Archery hunters** 12-17 years of age are required, in addition to firearm safety certification, to provide a Certificate of Competency in the safe handling of bow hunting tackle from the National Bowhunter Education Program.

Indian Reservations—Hunters hunting upland game birds on Indian reservations should check Indian reservation regulations because season dates, bag limits, licensing requirements, shooting hours, legal species and shot shell requirements may differ from state regulations.

The State of Montana and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have entered into a cooperative management agreement on the Flathead Reservation. Please check for upland game bird regulations specific to the Flathead Reservation. For information call Fish, Wildlife and Parks at (406) 752-5501 or the Tribes at (406)675- 2700.

Landowner permission–Hunters are reminded that landowner permission is required to hunt on posted land. You are encouraged to "Ask First" to hunt on land not posted.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

National Wildlife Refuges–More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Telephone (303)234-4612.

Shooting Hours–Authorized shooting hours for the taking of upland game birds begin one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. See official sunrise-sunset tables in these regulations.

Steel Shot–Hunters are reminded that steel shot is **NOT** required for the hunting of upland game birds unless hunting on a federal refuge or waterfowl production area. It is required for the hunting of waterfowl (excluding snipe and mourning doves) or coots.

Non-toxic Shot - Only non-toxic shot can be used on federal refuges (except CMR National Wildlife Refuge) and waterfowl production areas beginning in 1996. If hunters have specific questions regarding this regulation, please contact the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Wanton Waste–It is illegal to waste any part of any game animal, game bird, or game fish suitable for food. Following are game bird parts "suitable for food:"

All birds that fall into the size category of the partridge or smaller, only the breasts must be retained.

All birds larger than a partridge up to the size category of, and including, pheasants and sage grouse, the breasts and the thighs must be retained.

All turkeys, the breasts, thighs and wings must be retained.

1-900-225-5397 Information Hotline. Comprehensive details to callers on a wide variety of recreation topics, from hunting opportunities to road conditions are being offered by Fish, Wildlife and Parks in cooperation with a private vendor. The line is operational Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., MST. A $1.50 per minute charge will be assessed and callers must be at least 18 years old.

UPLAND GAME BIRD—

SAGE GROUSE — (see Closed Areas)

STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: September 1 – November 1

Bag Limits: 2 daily. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Means of Taking: Sage grouse may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge or long, recurve or compound bow and arrow. All other means of taking are prohibited.

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE — (see Closed Areas)

STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: September 1 – December 15

Bag Limits: 4 daily. Possession limit is four times the daily bag limit.

Means of Taking: Sharp-tailed grouse may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge or long, recurve or compound bow and arrow. All other means of taking are prohibited.

ASK FIRST!

to Hunt & Fish on Private Land

MOUNTAIN GROUSE —

STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: September 1 – December 15

Bag Limits: 3 in aggregate daily. Possession limit is four times the daily bag limit.

Means of Taking: Blue, Ruffed and Franklin's Grouse may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge or long, recurve or compound bow and arrow, rifle or handgun. All other means of taking are prohibited.

PARTRIDGE —

STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: September 1 - December 15

Exception: (see legal description below).

Portion of Carbon County: September 1 - January 10, the following year

Bag Limits: 8 in aggregate daily. Possession limit is four times the daily bag limit.

Means of Taking: Hungarian and Chukar Partridge may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge or long, recurve or compound bow and arrow. All other means of taking are prohibited.

Exception: A portion of Carbon County within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of Route 72 and the Wyoming-Montana state line, then northerly along said route to Bridger, then northerly along Hwy. 310 to Edgar, then east on the Edgar-Pryor Road to the Crow Indian Reservation boundary, then southerly and easterly along said boundary to the west shore of Big Horn Lake, then southerly along said shore to the Wyoming-Montana state line, then west along said state line to its junction with Route 72, the point of beginning.

NOTE: Chukar partridge occur primarily in Carbon County.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT —

STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: October 12 – December 15, 1996
October 11 – December 15, 1997

Bag Limits: 3 cock pheasants daily. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Means of Taking: Pheasants may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge or long, recurve or compound bow and arrow. All other means of taking are prohibited.

Transporting Pheasants: No person shall transport within the state any pheasant unless one leg remains naturally attached to each bird at all times until processed.

FALCONRY SEASON —

STATEWIDE:

Upland Game Birds: September 1 – March 31, the following year
(except turkey)

Bag Limits: 2 daily in aggregate and 6 in possession

Falconry Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Mourning Doves September 1 – October 30

Bag Limits: 2 daily and 6 in possession

Falconry Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Means of Taking: All areas open to hunting of upland game birds and/or migratory game birds by firearms shall be open to either-sex hunting of that species by falconry.

WILD TURKEY — FALL SEASON

STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: September 1 – December 15

Bag Limit: One wild turkey.

GENERAL FALL TURKEY HUNTING AREAS: The areas listed below are open to all hunters who hold a valid Fall Turkey License. Special permits are not required in the areas listed below.

Hill, Chouteau, Fergus, Wheatland, Golden Valley, Yellowstone and Big Horn Counties and all counties lying east of these.

Tagging: Immediately after harvesting your wild turkey, cutout the proper month and day from the license (if more than one date is cut, the license is invalid) and affix to the leg of the wild turkey.

Means of Taking: Wild turkey may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge, long, recurve or compound bow and arrow, rifle or handgun; except in special permit hunting areas of Flathead, Lake, Sanders and Lincoln Counties where rifles and handguns may not be used.

FALL TURKEY SPECIAL PERMIT HUNTING AREAS. Listed below are areas where limited numbers of fall turkey permits are being made available to hunters through a drawing. Successful applicants are authorized to use their fall turkey permit in conjunction with their fall turkey license, to hunt in an area that is otherwise closed to fall turkey hunters. Hunting with shotgun/archery ONLY.

Flathead, Lake and Sanders Counties:

Applicants must indicate either Flathead Valley or West Clark Fork area and submit in writing their name, address, current year conservation license number and $3. nonrefundable drawing fee to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 490 North Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901. Applications must be postmarked by July 1 to be eligible for the drawing. Successful applicants will be notified by mail and will be required to purchase a valid fall turkey license before hunting.

Flathead Valley Area:

A total of 300 fall turkey either-sex permits will be issued.

All of Flathead County and that portion of Lake County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning on the shoreline of Flathead Lake at the junction of the Flathead County Line, then easterly along the county line to the Swan Divide, then southerly along said divide to USFS Trail 10 in Section 36, T26N, R18W, then southwesterly along said trail to USFS Road 9508 (Six Mile Road), then southerly along said road to Route 83, then southerly along said route to USFS Road 10229 (Porcupine Creek Road), then westerly and southerly along said road to the south boundary of T26N, the 6th Standard Parallel North, then west along said township line to the Flathead Indian Reservation boundary, then north and west along said boundary to the east shore of Flathead Lake, then north along the shore of said lake to the Flathead County line, the point of beginning.

West Clark Fork Area:

A total of 25 fall turkey either-sex permits will be issued.

That portion of Sanders County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning where the Sanders-Mineral County line meets the Idaho border, then easterly along said line to Greenwood Hill, then northerly along the divide to Penrose Peak, Cherry Peak and Eddy Mountain, then northwesterly down ridge to Clark Fork River and mouth of Thompson River, then northeasterly up said river to the West Fork of the Thompson River, then up said fork to Four Lakes Creek, then westerly up said creek to the North Fork of Four Lakes Creek, then northwesterly up said fork to USFS Road 7671 and USFS Trail 437, then westerly up said trail to USFS Trail 450, then northerly on said trail to Mt. Headley, then northerly along the divide between Graves Creek and West Fork of Fishtrap Creek to the Vermilion River Divide, then northerly along the Vermilion-Thompson River Divide to the Sanders-Lincoln County line, then westerly along said line to the Idaho border, then south and southeasterly along said border to the Sanders-Mineral County line, the point of beginning.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Administrative Region 3

Applicants must submit in writing their name, address, current year conservation license number and $3 nonrefundable drawing fee to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1400 South 19th, Bozeman, MT 59715. Applications must be postmarked by July 1 to be eligible for the drawing. Successful applicants will be notified by mail and will be required to purchase a valid fall turkey license before hunting.

A total of 5 fall turkey either-sex permits will be issued.

Permits valid in all of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Administrative Region 3.

UPLAND GAME BIRD AND FALCONRY CLOSED AREAS

Wildlife Management Areas with big game winter range are closed to public entry from the day following the end of the general deer/elk season or December 1, whichever is later, to May 15 each year, as posted. (Exception: Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes Nov. 10).

State Game Preserves, closures and National Parks shall remain closed to hunting of upland game birds. For hunting privileges on Indian Reservations and Federal Wildlife Refuges, inquire at the local Indian Agency or Refuge office.

Flathead County: Closed to upland game bird hunting. Beginning where the west access road to the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area enters said area in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter, Section 24 T27N, R21W, approximately one-half (1/2) mile east of the town of Somers, then east-northeast along fence marking US Fish and Wildlife Service property as posted to the west property line of the Dedman ownership in the west half of Section 20, T27N,R20W, then south along said line fence as posted to the north shore of Flathead Lake, then south and westerly approximately one and

three-quarters (1 3/4) miles as posted to a US Fish and Wildlife Service ownership sign in the north half of the north half of Section 25, T27N,R32W, then northerly along west property line of said Waterfowl Production Area to the point of beginning.

Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area (Teton County): Open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season, then it will be closed to all hunting in the following described portion of the Wildlife Management Area: SW1/4, Section 19, Sections 29 and 30, T22N,R2W, W 1/2 Section 12, W 1/2 of E 1/2 Section 12, and that portion of Sections 13 and 24 within the posted boundary of the Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area, T22N,R4W. The area closed will reopen for upland game bird hunting as indicated in the current year's Montana Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations.

Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir (Lewis and Clark County): Open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season, then it will be closed to all hunting. The Bureau of Reclamation Regulating Reservoir is located in Section 8, T10N,R2W in the Helena Valley, as posted.

That part of Montana lying west of the Continental Divide is closed to the hunting of sage and sharp-tailed grouse.

MIGRATORY BIRDS —

The migratory bird regulations listed herein are subject to federal approval in late-August.

GENERAL REGULATIONS —

Means of Taking — Migratory birds may be taken only with long, recurve or compound bow and arrow or shotgun not larger than ten gauge incapable of holding more than three shells fired from the shoulder. May not be taken from or by means, or aid of, or use of a sinkbox, aircraft, motor vehicle, or motor-driven conveyance of any kind, except a motorboat when the motor has been shut off and the boat has stopped. Use of any electronic or phonographic waterfowl-calling device is illegal, as are live decoys.

Possession of Live Birds — Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

Restrictions — No person shall take migratory birds by driving, rallying, or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat to put them in range of the hunter; by the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement). Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary to the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation.

Shipment — No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (c) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

Shooting Hours: Authorized shooting hours begin one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day of the hunting season.

Tagging — No person shall give, put or leave any migratory birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information: 1) The hunter's signature. 2) The hunter's address. 3) The total number of birds involved, by species. 4) The dates such birds were killed. Tagging is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment, or taxidermy services.

MT Migratory Bird Stamp—Beginning in 1996 hunters must possess a MT Migratory Bird Stamp to hunt mourning doves, Common Wilson's snipe and sandhill cranes. See Licenses on Page 1.

MOURNING DOVES —

STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: September 1– October 30

Bag Limits: 15 daily and 30 in possession.

Means of Taking: Doves may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge capable of holding not more than three shells, or long, recurve or compound bow and arrow. All other means of taking are prohibited.

It is illegal to hunt by the use of baiting. It is illegal to shoot doves resting on utility lines or fixtures adjacent to those lines.

A Federal Migratory Bird Stamp is not required. A complete synopsis of regulations pertaining to migratory game birds are available from any Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks regional office or the Helena Headquarters (available in mid-September).

COMMON (WILSON'S) SNIPE —

STATEWIDE SEASON DATES: September 1 – December 16

Bag Limits: 8 daily and 16 in possession.

SANDHILL CRANE —

PACIFIC FLYWAY

SEASON DATES: September 14 - 15 and September 21 – 22, 1996

September 13 – 14 and September 20 – 21, 1997

Hunting in specified portions of Madison and Beaverhead County or Deer Lodge County or Powell County by special limited permit only. Hunters must apply in writing to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620. ATTN: Special Licensing by July 1. Applicants must submit in writing their name, signature, address, current year conservation license number and a $3 nonrefundable drawing fee. Applicants may apply for only one area and will need to specify which hunting area they are applying for. The tentative quotas are 65 permits for Dillon – Twin Bridges Area, 15 permits for Warm Springs Area and a maximum of 20 permits for the Ovando-Helmville Area. Hunters will be required to check in and out of designated check stations.

Bag and Possession Limit: 1 crane

CENTRAL FLYWAY —

SEASON DATES: September 29– November 25, 1996

September 28– November 24, 1997

Persons wishing to hunt sandhill cranes must obtain a free permit available from the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge; Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge; Fish, Wildlife and Parks regional headquarters in Glasgow, Billings, Miles City and the Helena Headquarters.

Exceptions: That area south and west of Interstate 90 shall be closed to the hunting of sandhill cranes.

Bag Limit: 3 daily and 6 in possession.

By order of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission, the seasons, limits and regulations listed herein shall govern the 1996-1997 Upland Game Bird and Falconry Hunting Seasons. These regulations are valid March 1, 1996 through February 28, 1998 and were adopted by the Fish, Wildlife &Parks Commission on February 5, 1996. Patrick J. Graham, Secretary.

1996 Sunrise-Sunset Tables For Determining Hunting Hours

These tables, including adjustments for daylight time, are the official sunrise-sunset tables adopted by the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission for hunting in Montana. Do not utilize tables from other sources.

These sunrise-sunset tables apply only to the 1996 hunting season. Check with any Fish, Wildlife and Parks office or your local license agent after March 1, 1997, to obtain a copy of the 1997 Sunrise-Sunset Table.

	Zone 1		Zone 2		Zone 3		Zone 4	
September	**Rise**	**Set**	**Rise**	**Set**	**Rise**	**Set**	**Rise**	**Set**
1-5	6:57	8:17	6:50	8:04	6:37	7:49	6:27	7:46
6-10	7:04	8:06	6:56	7:54	6:43	7:40	6:34	7:36
11-15	7:11	7:56	7:03	7:44	6:49	7:30	6:40	7:25
16-20	7:18	7:46	7:09	7:34	6:56	7:20	6:47	7:15
21-25	7:25	7:35	7:16	7:24	7:02	7:11	6:54	7:05
26-30	7:32	7:25	7:22	7:14	7:08	7:01	7:01	6:54
October								
1-5	7:39	7:14	7:29	7:04	7:14	6:51	7:08	6:44
6-10	7:46	7:04	7:36	6:55	7:21	6:42	7:17	6:32
11-15	7:54	6:54	7:42	6:45	7:28	6:33	7:23	6:24
16-20	8:01	6:45	7:49	6:36	7:34	6:24	7:30	6:14
21-24	8:09	6:35	7:56	6:28	7:41	6:15	7:38	6:05
25-28	8:15	6:28	8:02	6:21	7:47	6:09	7:45	5:55
29	8:21	6:23	8:07	6:16	7:51	6:04	7:50	5:50
30-31	7:21	5:22	7:08	5:15	6:52	5:03	6:51	4:49
November								
1-5	7:26	5:17	7:12	5:10	6:57	4:58	6:55	4:45
6-10	7:34	5:09	7:20	5:03	7:04	4:52	7:03	4:37
11-15	7:41	5:02	7:27	4:57	7:11	4:46	7:10	4:31
16-20	7:49	4:56	7:34	4:52	7:18	4:40	7:18	4:25
21-25	7:56	4:51	7:41	4:47	7:24	4:36	7:25	4:20
26-30	8:03	4:47	7:48	4:44	7:31	4:33	7:32	4:17

	Zone 1		Zone 2		Zone 3		Zone4	
December	**Rise**	**Set**	**Rise**	**Set**	**Rise**	**Set**	**Rise**	**Set**
1-5	8:09	4:44	7:54	4:42	7:37	4:31	7:38	4:14
6-10	8:15	4:43	7:59	4:41	7:42	4:30	7:44	4:13
11-15	8:20	4:43	8:04	4:41	7:47	4:30	7:49	4:13
16-20	8:23	4:44	8:08	4:42	7:50	4:31	7:52	4:14
21-25	8:26	4:46	8:10	4:44	7:53	4:33	7:55	4:16
26-31	8:28	4:50	8:12	4:47	7:55	4:37	7:57	4:20
January								
1-5	8:28	4:56	8:12	4:53	7:56	4:42	7:57	4:25
6-10	8:27	5:00	8:11	4:58	7:55	4:47	7;56	4:31
11-15	8:24	5:06	8:09	5:05	7:53	4:53	7:54	4:37
16-20	8:21	5:13	8:06	5:11	7:50	5:00	7:50	4:44
21-25	8:16	5:21	8:02	5:18	7:46	5:07	7:45	4:52
26-31	8:11	5:28	7:57	5:26	7:41	5:14	7:40	5:00

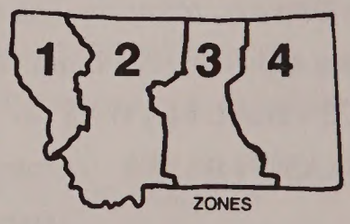
A complete listing of sunrise-sunset tables for determining hunting hours showing the months of April through February is available from any Fish, Wildlife and Parks office.

Zone 1 - Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders Counties.

Zone 2 - Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole Counties.

Zone 3 - Blaine, Bighorn, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone Counties.

Zone 4 - Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Treasure, Wibaux and Valley Counties.



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks